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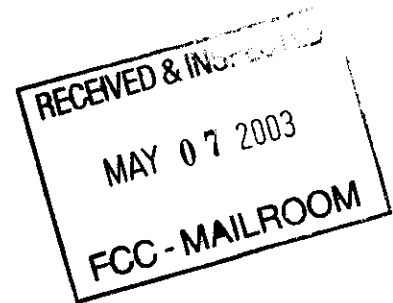


**THE PARTNERSHIP**  
*A progressive approach to growth & development*

May 1, 2003

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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WC Docket No. 03-90

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of the St. Cloud Economic Development Partnership, I am writing to express our membership's support for Qwest's application to provide long distance service in Minnesota. We believe that increased competition will serve the public interest of our community and the state by providing additional choice and cost savings.

In addition, increased competition will strengthen our local ability to recruit new economic development prospects, expand businesses and create jobs. Competition in telecommunications is critical to economic growth and vitality of our region and our state.

We understand that Qwest has received approval to provide long distance service in 12 of the 14 states in their region. We also understand that the Minnesota application incorporates the same testing data that was already approved by the FCC.

The St. Cloud Area Economic Development Partnership urges the Federal Communications Commission to approve Qwest's application to provide interLATA long distance in the state of Minnesota. We are anxious for Minnesota to enjoy the same positive benefits that our neighboring states are already experiencing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this subject.

Respectfully,

Tom Moore  
President

C: Senator Mark Dayton  
Senator Norm Coleman  
Representative Mark Kennedy